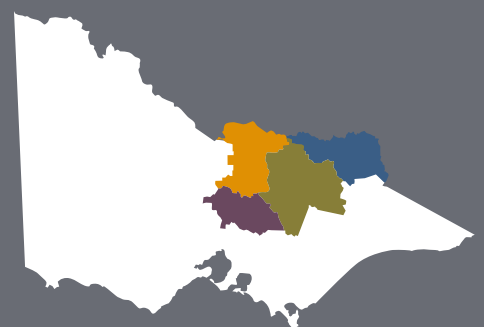




HUME STRATEGY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The **Hume Strategy** for sustainable communities*

2010-2020



OVERVIEW OF THE HUME STRATEGY

The Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities (Hume Strategy) is a 10 year strategic plan that was developed by the Hume Regional Management Forum (RMF) to provide advice and make recommendations to inform decision making and investment in the Hume Region.

In Hume Region, planning at the sub regional and regional level is the key to a 'unified voice' which is necessary to advance the priorities of the region. The development of an integrated regional strategic plan is the primary tool to strengthen the region's competitive advantages, harness opportunities and achieve desired outcomes.

The Hume Strategy was completed in June 2010 based on input over two years from local government and state government, and advice at key points from community and business leaders in the Hume Region.

The Hume Strategy comprises a regional plan and four sub regional plans which draw upon a range of references and source documents (Figure 1).

SCOPE

The Hume Strategy is a resource that will be used to encourage partnerships and inform decision making for the benefit of communities, and create a more sustainable, prosperous and liveable Hume Region.

The Hume Strategy provides advice and recommendations that:

- > are framed from a regional and sub regional perspective
- > are consistent with existing policy, processes and plans
- > allow the region and sub regions to build on existing strengths
- > embrace a triple bottom line approach to the growth of settlements across the region
- > will continue to evolve as new opportunities arise.

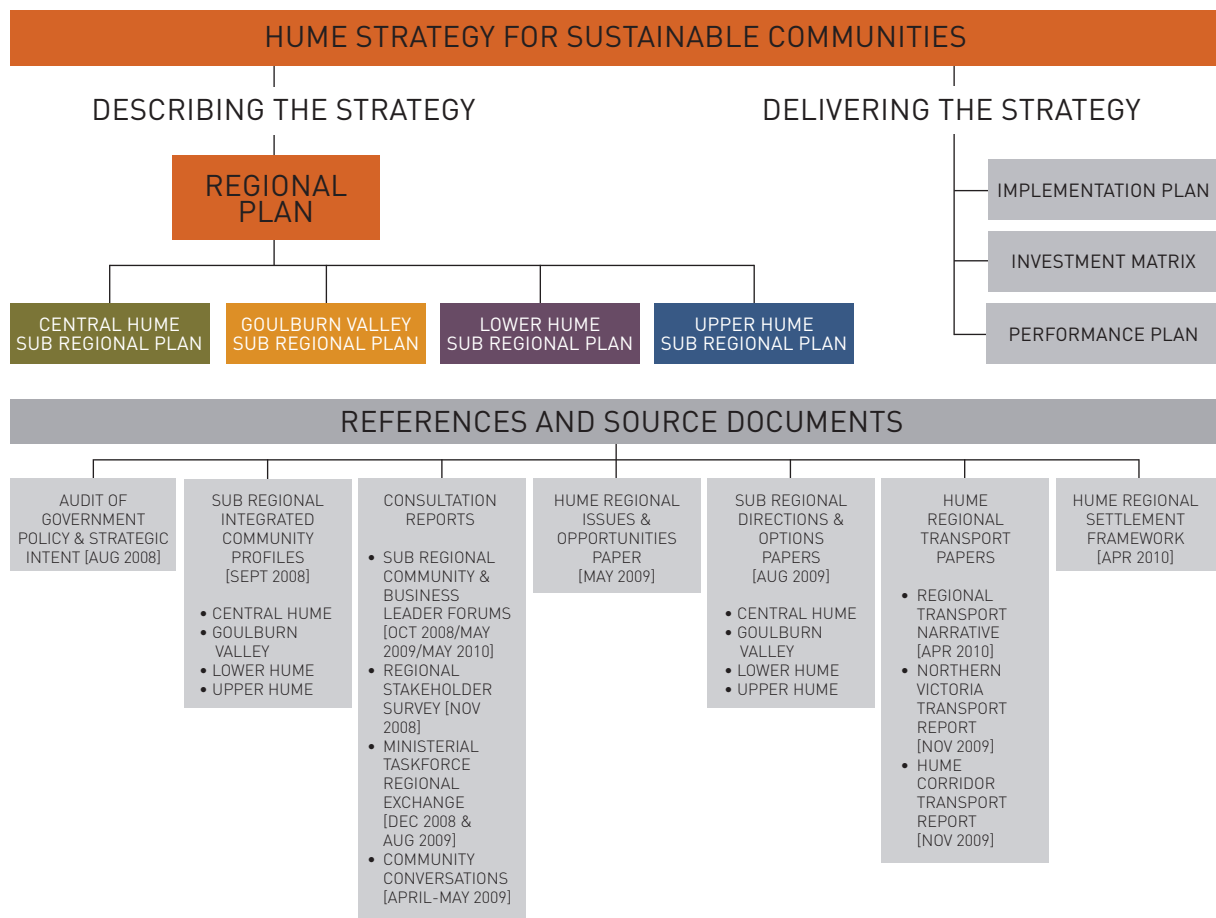
The Hume Strategy:

- > defines the competitive advantages, challenges and opportunities
- > identifies a vision, goals, key directions and priority strategies under five key themes
- > establishes a strategic framework for managing regional growth and change.
- > identifies actions of regional and sub regional significance.

The Hume Strategy does not include actions that are unlikely to have an impact beyond a local municipal boundary. It does not seek to duplicate or reiterate existing policies, plans or strategies that adequately address matters of significance to the region.



FIGURE 1. HUME STRATEGY DOCUMENT STRUCTURE



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Hume Region is comprised of four distinct and inter-connected sub regions. The region is characterised by a network of high functioning regional cities and centres located along major transport routes which support and are supported by a network of district towns, towns and villages. Unlike other regions in provincial Victoria there is no single dominant major regional city in the Hume Region.

The role and function of the region's network of regional cities and centres, as well as its district towns, towns and villages establishes the Hume Region as a multi-centred region within the context of a multi-centred state. Examined collectively, this network of regional cities and centres in the Hume Region has a similar capability to that of major regional cities in other Victorian regions to sustainably accommodate future growth.

This is the point of difference for the Hume Region and it has implications for state and local government's approach to strategic planning and investment as well as any future application of state-wide settlement policy and principles.

It is imperative that this difference is recognised in any future legislative framework.

This unique role and function of regional cities and centres servicing distinct sub regions means that when compared to other Victorian regions who have a dominant centre, different approaches to infrastructure development, service provision and settlement growth must be utilised to advance the environmental, social, economic, transportation and land use priorities of the Hume Region.

All sub regions, except Lower Hume which has an interface to Melbourne, are serviced by key regional cities and centres. Shepparton services Goulburn Valley, Wodonga services Upper Hume and Wangaratta supported by Benalla services Central Hume.

The four Hume sub regions are based around broad communities of interest and existing relationships, and, with their local government areas, are:

Central Hume: Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield and Wangaratta

Goulburn Valley: Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie and Campaspe

Lower Hume: Mitchell and Murrindindi

Upper Hume: Indigo, Towong and Wodonga

For planning purposes, Campaspe Shire in the Loddon Mallee Region is included in the Goulburn Valley sub region because of shared interests.



SUB REGIONS

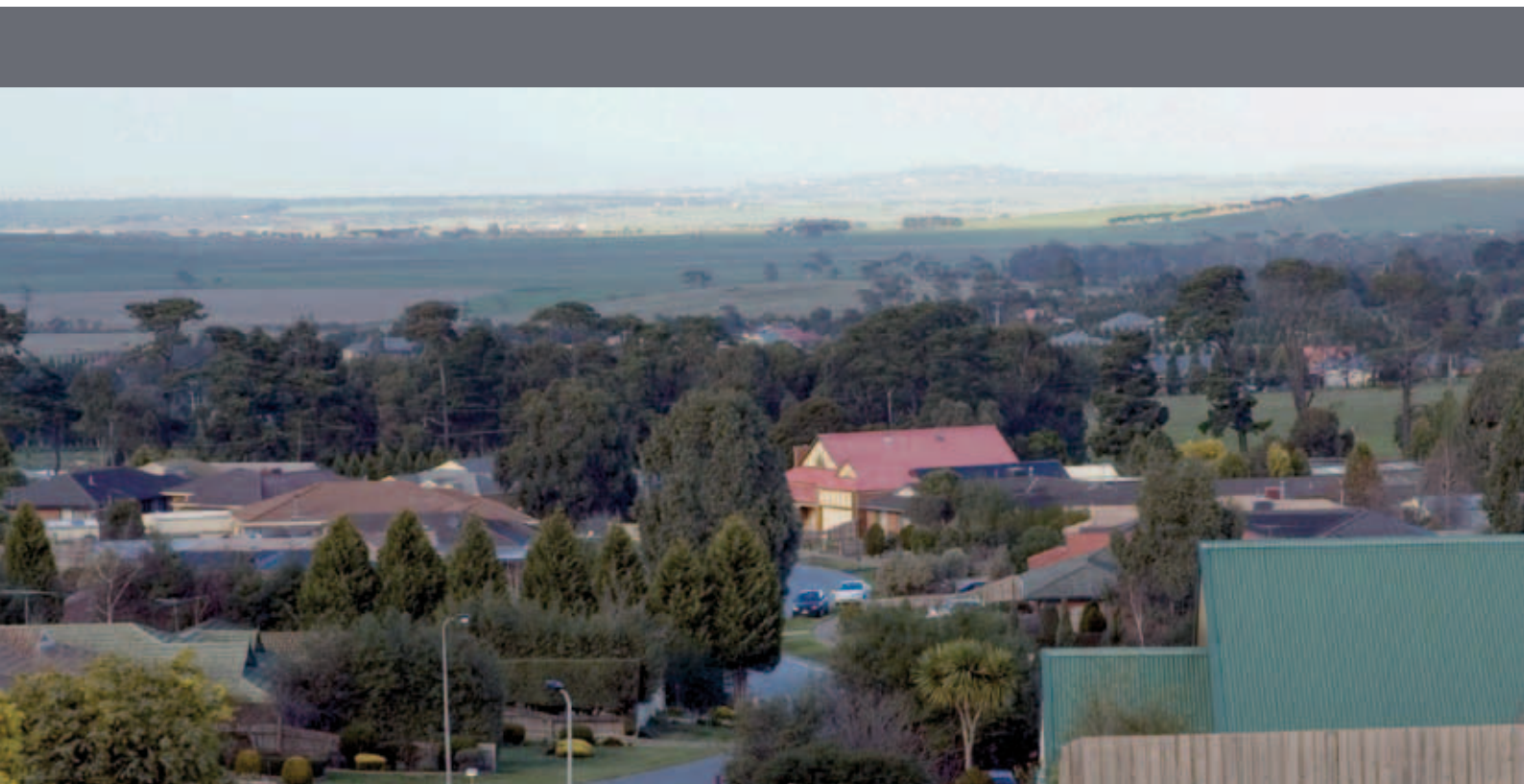
Four sub regional plans are companion documents to the regional plan and provide detailed descriptions of the strategic context and actions of significance to the sub region for each theme. The following are summary descriptions of each sub region.

Central Hume sub region has a strong industry and service base in Wangaratta, supported by Benalla, which together support and are supported by settlements within the sub region. The sub region has a strong softwood plantation timber industry and, with the headwaters of many of Victoria's rivers located in Central Hume, the availability of water close to its source is a major driver for high value agriculture. The sub region is renowned for its tourism industry, based on snow sports, cycling, nature based recreation, fine food and wine. The Falls Creek, Mount Hotham, Mount Buller and Mount Sterling Alpine Resorts are located in Central Hume. The Hume transport corridor which runs through the sub region provides accessibility to freight, passenger and vehicle movement along the east coast of Australia.

Goulburn Valley sub region has a strong industry and service base in Shepparton which supports and is supported by settlements within the sub region. Goulburn Valley has significant food and vegetable processing industries and a strong rural economy based on irrigated and dry land agriculture, grazing, viticulture and forestry. Key water assets in the sub region include the Goulburn, Broken, Murray and Ovens river systems, which provide fertile agricultural land, desirable tourist locations and important habitats for native species and ecosystems. The Goulburn Murray catchment is widely regarded as the food bowl of the Murray-Darling Basin. Shepparton-Mooroopna has the largest Indigenous population in provincial Victoria and is characterised by cultural diversity resulting from past and recent settlement of migrants in the sub region.

Lower Hume sub region has both the smallest geographical area and the largest growth rate due to peri urban development associated with proximity to Melbourne. Seymour, the sub region's largest settlement, provides a strategic location linking the Hume Region to Melbourne because of its location at the convergence of the Hume and Goulburn Valley transport corridors. Lower Hume has vibrant viticulture, aquaculture, agricultural and timber industries. Manufacturing is a key employer, particularly for residents living in the southern part of the sub region and along the Hume Freeway, who commute to Melbourne's northern suburbs. The Lake Mountain Alpine Resort together with national and state parks are significant tourism destinations in Lower Hume. The 2009 Black Saturday bushfires severely affected communities in the sub region and caused unprecedented loss of life and property, particularly in Murrindindi Shire.

Upper Hume sub region has a strong industry and service base in Wodonga which supports and is supported by settlements within the sub region. The sub region is bordered by the Murray River in the north and important links exist between Wodonga and Albury in New South Wales. The Hume Freeway and Melbourne-Sydney rail link through the sub region provides the basis for freight transport and logistics industries, in addition to passenger transport services. Wodonga also has a strong manufacturing base and defence force presence. Most employment growth in the last decade has been in manufacturing and construction. Grazing accounts for much of the agricultural land use across, particularly in Towong and Indigo Shires. Upper Hume also has a number of townships and other locations such as Rutherglen and Beechworth with food and wine, heritage, recreational and environmental values that are important for tourism.



THEMES AND KEY DIRECTIONS

The five themes and related key directions which form the framework for priority strategies and actions presented in the Hume Strategy regional and sub regional plans are:

Environment Theme: Natural resources protected and enhanced for current future generations

1. Anticipating and adapting to the effects of climate change.
2. Managing our water resources sustainably.
3. Protecting native habitat and biodiversity.
4. Harnessing renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pursuing innovative waste management approaches.

Communities Theme: Healthy, vibrant and resilient communities

5. Embracing learning for life.
6. Providing appropriate and accessible social services and infrastructure.
7. Developing innovative and flexible service delivery models.
8. Strengthening communities, increasing resilience and enhancing liveability.

Economic Theme: A thriving and dynamic economy

9. Strengthening a capable workforce.
10. Adapting and diversifying agriculture in an environment of change.
11. Facilitating research and innovation in tourism, manufacturing and industry to encourage new and evolving business.
12. Developing information and communications technology (ICT) and energy infrastructure that builds on existing competitive advantages.

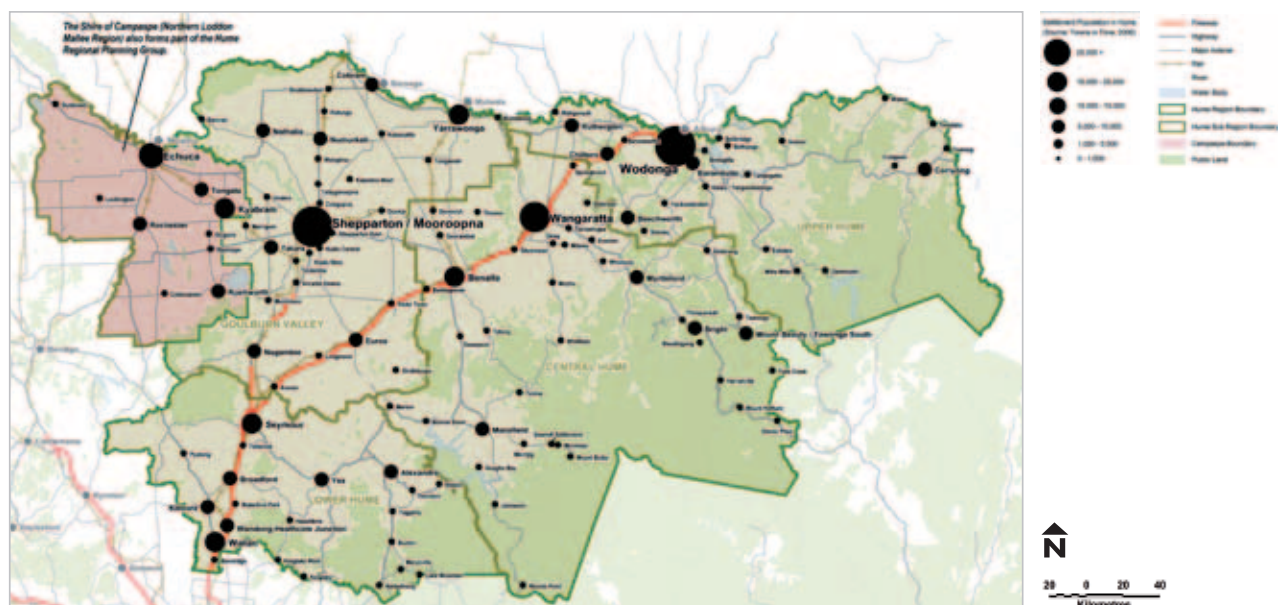
Transport Theme: An integrated network of efficient and high functioning transportation systems

13. Enhancing integrated planning for mobility.
14. Developing a proficient land transportation system.
15. Linking communities through improved public transport and transport linkages.
16. Strengthening the sustainability of the transport system.

Land Use Theme: An efficient and sustainable pattern of urban and rural land use and development

17. Directing future population growth to settlements with the greatest capacity to accommodate it.
18. Maximising use of existing infrastructure and services and facilitating strategic investment in future infrastructure and services.
19. Retaining productive rural land for agriculture and other compatible rural uses.
20. Ensuring efficient use of land use planning resources in the region.

MAP 1. HUME REGION POPULATION OF TOWNS (2006)



HIGHLIGHTS

The Hume Strategy is the first integrated strategic plan for the Hume Region. Set out under the five themes of environment, community, economy, transport and land use, each theme comprises a comprehensive package of key directions and strategies. This package forms the basis for regional collaboration and cooperation to advance over 300 recommended actions.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR EACH THEME INCLUDE:

Environment – a broad range of activities such as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; water availability and efficient water use; protection of the regions important biodiversity and ecosystems; regional energy planning with a focus on renewable energy, efficiency and innovation; improvements to resource recovery in the region; and green industry development.

Communities – a group of actions aimed at providing networked community spaces; promoting educational aspiration and achievement; securing specialist health and aged care service development; closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage; planning for population growth, mental health and aged care; encouraging development of housing stock diversity; improvements to infrastructure and access to arts, culture, sport and recreation; and community safety.

Economic – a package of activities that includes workforce skill development and attraction, workforce retention strategies, opportunities to provide adult learning; agribusiness development, transition and diversification; tourism coordination, promotion and infrastructure; freight and logistics capacity; next generation ICT; and reliable energy supplies.

Transport – a raft of actions that call for integrated transport systems, including public transport, underpinning networked communities; major infrastructure upgrades and improvements to the regions rail links; expansion of east-west public and freight transport links; greater freight transport capacity; innovation for energy efficiency and low carbon emission; and encouraging further construction and use of cycle and walking paths.

Land Use – a series of land use management and development activities within regional cities and centres and small settlements, and along the Murray River corridor; improvements to the way the region coordinates land use, infrastructure and service planning; measures to assist the region plan for population growth; steps to further rural land use strategies; and strengthening the region's land use planning expertise.

VISION

The Hume Region will be resilient, diverse and thriving. It will capitalise on the strengths and competitive advantages of the four sub regions, to harness growth for the benefit of the region and to develop liveable and sustainable communities.



APPENDIX 1

READY TO ADVANCE PROJECTS AT JUNE 2010

In order to take advantage of available funding opportunities, a list of ready to advance projects was provided by Local Government CEOs and endorsed by the Hume RMF on 25 June 2010. These ready to advance projects are included here as an appendix to the Executive Summary. Criteria applied in assessing projects as ready to advance:

- > addresses the Hume Region's competitive advantages or meets agreed challenges
- > planning is completed and a well developed business case exists
- > significant at the regional or sub regional level
- > opportune - the time is right but the project will not happen without funding

REGIONAL

1. National Broadband Network (NBN) roll out.
2. Urban renewal projects in regional cities and centres
3. Fast rail alternatives along the Goulburn Valley and Hume transport corridors:
 - > Sprinter service from Seymour to Shepparton
 - > Transit business centres – train carriages on Hume corridor daily service
4. Develop and implement a workforce planning and attraction strategy
5. Develop sub regional land use and urban planning strategies for Goulburn Valley, Upper Hume and Central Hume

UPPER HUME

6. Redevelopment of Wodonga CBD
7. Student accommodation at Latrobe University
8. Bi modal road / rail container and bulk terminal facility at the Logic Centre

CENTRAL HUME

9. Rail trail infrastructure for cycling and walking trail links: Bright to Harrietteville / Wangaratta to Whitfield / Winton Wetlands
10. Interpretive Centre: Lower Ovens – Warby Range National Park – Winton Wetlands – Ned Kelly
11. Seal the Jamison to Licola Road

GOULBURN VALLEY

12. Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton bypass
13. Murray River bridge at Yarrawonga
14. Air freight centre at Mangalore Airport

LOWER HUME

15. Ongoing commitment to bushfire recovery and rebuilding
16. Plan for growth in Wallan and surrounds



FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about existing projects of regional and sub regional significance that are relevant to your area please contact your local Council.

Copies of the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities are available in PDF format and can be obtained by contacting:

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